improvement, with a cost estimate of Rs. 31 crores. The Public Works Department of the Government of Assam has completed 79.38 Kms. of formation, 78.10 Kms. of pavement and has partially completed 4 bridges. The expenditure incurred by State Government on these works upto now is Rs. 24.15 crores.

The worst stretches of this road were included for improvement under the NEC Plan in 1988. The portions from Devaraparto Simulguri and Sonari to Joypur were not included under the NEC Plan in 1988. The distances from devarapar to Simulguri is approximately 40 Kms. and from Sonari to Joypur is approximately 57 Kms. Hence, works have not been taken up on the stretches which were not covered under the approved road project.

Security at the residences of MPs

† *426. SHRI DP. YADAV: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a plan to post security guards at the residences of Members of Parliament in Delhi during Parliament Session in view of the brutal killing of a woman M.P. in broad day light in a VIP area in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) No, Sir. No such proposal is presently under consideration of the Government.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Security is provided on the basis of threat perception.

Safe drinking water to habitations affected by fluoride or brackish Water

*427. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have sanctioned 12 water projects for providing safe drinking water to habitations affected by fluoride or having brackish water; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when the projects would be taken up for early completion?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. VENKAIAHNAIDU): (a) and (b) To tackle fluoride and brackish contamination in drinking water, during the period 1,994-95 to 1997-98, under Sub-Mission Programme of ARWSP, 83 projects were sanctioned to different States at a total cost of about Rs. 944 crore, out of which Government of India's share is about Rs. 709 crore. Out of these 83 projects, 20 projects are reported to have been completed; and the rest are at different stages of implementation.

Rural Drinking Water Supply is a State subject. State Government implement rural drinking water supply schemes from their own resources. Government of India supplements their efforts by providing funds under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) and Rural Drinking Water component of Prime Minister's Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY). As reported by the State Governments, as on 1.4.1999, there are 2,17,211 rural habitations are affected with various quality problems in the country, out of of which 36,988 habitations are affected with fluoride contamination, 32,597 habitations with brackishness and the remaining are affected with other quality problems. A fresh survey is presently being carried out to assess the number of habitations affected by various quality problems.

Since 1.4.1998, powers to plan, approve and implement schemes/projects under Sub-Mission have been delegated to the States under ARWSP. Under Rural Drinking Water component of PMGY, the States can also plan, approve and implement schemes/projects to provide safe drinking water in quality affected habitations, which *inter alias* includes habitations affected with fluoride contamination and brackish water.

Nabbing of Brigand Veerappan

*428. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the latest position with regard to the nabbing/arrest of brigand Veerappan and his jungle followers;

(b) whether State Governments of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu have recently sought any kind of assistance from Union Government in this regard particularly after activising a task force by new Tamil Nadu Government;

(c) if so, details thereof and Government's reaction thereto;